
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

May 21, 2019



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

IOWA 911 COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL — MAY 2019

Meeting. The Iowa 911 Communications Council met on May 9, 2019, at the West Des Moines City Hall.

911 Program Financial Reports and Program Update. Blake DeRouche, 911 Program Manager, provided the Council with the following updates on the 911 Program and its current financial standing:

Quarterly Report. Total wireless surcharge revenue for the third quarter of 2019 was reported at \$7.8 million, and total surcharge charged was reported at approximately \$7.7 million. The difference between revenue collected and surcharge charged reflects interest accrued. Third quarter data also reflected a total operating surplus of approximately \$15.2 million. Approximately \$3.5 million of this surplus will be transferred to catastrophic failure reserve funds, leaving approximately \$11.7 million in total operational surplus funding at the end of the third quarter.

GIS Grants Update. A total of 78 counties have been approved to receive the FY 2019 federal GIS (Geographic Information System) grants in Period 2 of the funding period (January 1, 2019, to June 30, 2019), receiving a cumulative total of \$498,000 in funding. In April 2019, five counties received GIS grants totaling \$30,000. Year-to-date funding for FY 2019 totals approximately \$1.1 million.

The GIS grant process will change slightly in FY 2020. Application upload periods will remain the same, but to receive funding, counties will need to verify 98.0% match rates with GIS and 95.0% match rates with ALI (Automatic Location Identifier). In FY 2019, counties were required to verify 98.0% match rates with GIS, 50.0% match rates with ALI, and 50.0% match rates with the Master Street Address Guide (MSAG). The MSAG match requirement has been removed from the FY 2020 benchmark process. Additionally, counties will be able to upload grant applications through a new and updated Statewide Next Generation 911 GIS platform.

911 Council Travel, Public Education and Training Fund. Mr. DeRouche shared that as of May 2019, approximately \$61,400 has been expended from the 911 Council Travel, Public Education and Training Fund. Approximately \$100,000 is allocated toward the Fund annually. For FY 2019, approximately \$32,200 has already been obligated or approved to be disbursed, leaving a balance of approximately \$7,600.

Windstream Bankruptcy Filing. In February 2019, Windstream Holdings, an Internet service provider for rural areas that acts as a secondary Emergency Services Internet Protocol (ESInet) in Iowa, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Approximately 13 Iowa public safety answering points (PSAPs) have connections to both the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) and Windstream for redundancy. Mr. DeRouche assured the Council that Windstream has received permanent authorization to continue to pass through wireless and wireline surcharge as it undergoes bankruptcy proceedings.

Outstanding PSAP Expenditure Report. As of May 2019, Chickasaw County has not sent in the required annual PSAP expenditure report. As a result, the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) is required to withhold 35.0% of the County's funding until the report has been submitted. Chickasaw County must submit the completed report by March 31, 2020.

Statewide Interoperable Communications System (SWIC) Board Update. Chris Maiers, SWIC Coordinator, provided an update on the Board's activities, stating that the Board has begun providing counties along the 2019 RAGBRAI route with emergency services equipment funded by PSAP grants. Service technology includes a Harris control station with a mobile radio, power supply, speakers, and a

desk microphone. The Department of Public Safety (DPS) is working to program the radios to provide them to counties that have requested them as soon as possible.

Next Meeting. The next Council meeting will be held Thursday, June 13, at 9:00 a.m. at the West Des Moines City Hall.

LSA Staff Contact: Christin Mechler (515.250.0458) christin.mechler@legis.iowa.gov

1046898